

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 10-13, 15, 29-30, 33-42 are pending in the instant application. To expedite the prosecution of the instant application, claim 31 has been cancelled herein, and Applicant reserves the right to prosecute that subject matter, as well as the originally presented claims, in later applications. Claims 1, 29, and 33-36 have been amended. The present amendments are fully supported by the specification and the claims as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by the amendments made herein.

Applicant notes that in the final Office Action mailed on March 11, 2003, claims 37-42 have been allowed, and claims 1, 10-13, 15, 29 and 33-36 have been found to be "free of the art of record." Applicant further notes that in the Advisory Action mailed on September 4, 2003, the Examiner has indicated that "claims 1, 10-13, 29, 30 and 33-36 would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims." (advisory Action, Item 4). Accordingly, claim 31 has been cancelled herein, and the amendments to the pending claims have been presented in this separate, timely filed Amendment and Response.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Ivor R. Elfifi, Reg. No. 39,529
Cynthia A. Kozakiewicz, Reg. No. 42,764
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS,
GLOVSKY and POPEO, P.C.
One Financial Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02111
Tel: (617) 542-6000
Fax: (617) 542-2241